

for formerly homeless veterans. Both of these populations are vulnerable to a return to homelessness. Ensuring they can go to school while maintaining access to affordable housing can help prevent this regression and promote financial independence.

These small changes can provide immeasurable help and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in passing this legislation.

CONGRATULATING NAPSEC ON 45
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) for their 45 years of excellent service and academic dedication to our country's individuals with disabilities. NAPSEC's educational therapeutic services, combined with over four decades of experience, are invaluable to the education community across the United States and to the many partners in my home state of New Jersey.

Established in 1971, NAPSEC represents private specialized education programs including early intervention services, school programs, residential therapeutic centers, and college experience and adult living programs for individuals with disabilities and their families. The majority of NAPSEC's member programs provide services to publicly placed students with disabilities through the Continuum of Alternative Placements and Services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Originally enacted into law in 1975, IDEA is the primary federal statute governing special education for children from birth through age 21 and guaranteeing the rights of children with disabilities to a free public education that suits their needs.

Nationwide, 6.6 million students with disabilities are ensured of and receive an education because of IDEA. While many of these children are successfully integrated into public schools and typical classrooms, IDEA requires that a variety of options are available to meet the individual needs of disabled students. Of these students, 3.4 percent are served in private specialized day and/or residential programs. NAPSEC member programs meet a vital need for individuals who are not able to thrive in a typical classroom environment, acknowledging each individual's unique experience, because every child has the right to an education that empowers them to succeed.

NAPSEC's hundreds of affiliates bridge the gap and offer much needed services to publically and privately placed individuals. In addition to K-12 education, these services also include early intervention services for infants and toddlers. As co-chair of the Coalition on Autism Research and Education (CARE), I've seen firsthand the impact that early intervention makes in successful outcomes for children and applaud this attention to early intervention.

Additionally, NAPSEC programs provide postsecondary college experience and adult living programs that serve individuals who have aged out of their school based supports and are no longer eligible for services under

IDEA. As 50,000 individuals with autism, and many more with other disabilities, age out of their education based supports every year, supports and services for these individuals are critically necessary in ensuring that young adults with disabilities can successfully transition into the next phase of their lives. Their services needs do not end when they turn 21.

NAPSEC programs improve educational outcomes for people with disabilities and empower them to achieve their full potential and make meaningful contributions to society. When individuals with disabilities are empowered to achieve, we all benefit.

I remain impressed by the quality of care and expertise NAPSEC's partners provide to America's students with disabilities, including those with autism. Again, I offer NAPSEC my sincerest congratulations and gratitude for their 45 years of service to the disabilities community and look forward to NAPSEC's continued progress in the future.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
FIRE COUNCIL (NVFC)

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC).

This important organization represents the interests of volunteer fire, EMS and rescue workers, who make up approximately 69 percent of the nation's fire service. As co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to work with the National Volunteer Fire Council to advocate for the interests of these brave men and women who volunteer their time and risk their lives for our communities.

The NVFC has been a powerful voice for the volunteer firefighter, EMT and rescue service. Since the Council began, fire death rate per million population declined by 70 percent and on-duty firefighter fatalities have dropped by half. The Council's efforts to promote safety and fire prevention are also noteworthy. The number of fire calls per year is less than half of what it was in 1980.

In the last few decades, we have learned more about the additional grave dangers that firefighters face, including cancer, PTSD, vehicle crashes, and heart events. I will continue to work with the NVFC to advocate for the health and safety of the volunteer fire service community.

The National Volunteer Fire Council has come a long way since its founding in 1976 and I know it will continue to serve its membership and the greater community well for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VICKIE AND ED
ELWOOD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vickie and Ed

Elwood of Griswold, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on April 10, 2016.

Ed and Vickie's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. It is because of Iowans like them that I'm proud to represent our great state.

I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING SETH TOWERY ON
BEING ACCEPTED BY THE NA-
TIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE
PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCI-
ENTISTS AS A DELEGATE TO
THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE
MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl Junction High School student Seth Towery, of Joplin, Missouri, on his being accepted as a delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The Congress of Future Medical Leaders is an honors-only program that is designed to motivate and direct the top students in the United States. Specifically, it's designed for students aspiring to become physicians or medical researchers, and provides a path and mentorship for students to accomplish their goals.

To be considered for acceptance as a delegate, applicants are either recommended by a teacher or member of the Academy based on a proven track record of academic excellence. Delegates represent all 50 states plus Puerto Rico, and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA. Students like Towery who qualify for this incredibly selective honor exemplify top-tier diligence and academic talent.

Mr. Speaker, Seth Towery has displayed the ability to not only excel in the classroom, but to balance his interests in science and medicine with his athletic endeavors. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating him for this achievement. On behalf of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, I wish Seth the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND
WOMEN WHO SERVE IN LAW EN-
FORCEMENT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, during National Police Week, I rise to recognize the brave men and women who serve in law enforcement.

Since 1962, this week has been reserved to commemorate the law enforcement officers who serve and protect our communities and